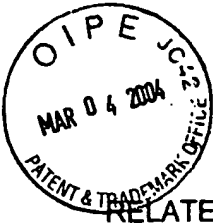


ITW-14147



TOP-FILL RECLOSABLE BAG HAVING
WICKET FLAP AND RELATED
METHOD OF MANUFACTURE

RELATED PATENT APPLICATION

This application is a continuation-in-part of and claims priority from U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/610,805 filed on July 1, 2003 and entitled "Reclosable Bag Having Wicket Flap Slider-Actuated String Zipper"^x, now U.S. Patent No. 7,036,987, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/367,450 filed on February 14, 2003, now U.S. Patent No. 6,951,421.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

5 This invention generally relates to reclosable bags having slider-actuated zippers. In particular, the invention relates to slider-actuated reclosable bags having a header or flap with holes or slits for mounting a stack of unfilled bags on a wicket.

10 Reclosable bags are finding ever-growing acceptance as primary packaging, particularly as packaging for foodstuffs such as cereal, fresh fruit and vegetables, snacks and the like. Such bags provide the consumer with the ability to readily store, in a closed, if not sealed, package any unused portion of the packaged product even after the package is initially opened.

15 Reclosable bags generally comprise a receptacle having a mouth with a plastic zipper for opening and closing. In recent years, many zippers have been designed to operate with a slider mounted thereon. As the slider is moved in an opening direction, the slider causes the zipper sections it passes over to open. Conversely, as the slider is moved in a closing direction, the slider causes the zipper sections it passes over to close. Typically, a zipper for a reclosable bag includes a pair of interlockable profiled closure strips that are joined at opposite ends of the bag mouth. The profiles of interlockable plastic zipper parts can take on various configurations, e.g. interlocking rib and groove elements having so-called male and female profiles, interlocking alternating hook-shaped closure elements, etc. Reclosable bags having slider-operated zippers are generally more desirable to consumers than bags having zippers

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